



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **Silver Spring Man Pleads Guilty to Human Trafficking**

A Silver Spring man arrested last fall at a motel in Laurel pleaded guilty to one count of human trafficking in Howard County Circuit Court on Tuesday. Kevin Oswald Joseph, 37 of Marblehedge Way was sentenced to 10 years in prison with five years suspended.

Detectives received a tip that an advertisement on the website backpage, known for prostitution ads, was offering sexual services with a woman at a motel in the 9700 block of Washington Blvd. Last month, the FBI and additional federal law enforcement agencies seized the sex marketplace website and shut it down. Police responded to the hotel on November 9, 2017 and made contact with two victims, both adult females, who disclosed that Joseph had transported them to Pennsylvania and New York to engage in prostitution during the past month.

Joseph was arrested shortly after returning to the hotel that evening. The cell phone used to place the ad, along with \$4,565 in cash were discovered in his possession. The women victims were offered support services.

Judge Timothy J. McCrone sentenced Joseph to 10 years in prison, suspending all but five years. Upon his release, Joseph will be on supervised probation for five years, during which he was ordered not to return to any of the hotels or motels on Washington Boulevard in Howard County.

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